

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A catheter assembly comprising:

a wetting fluid; and

a catheter having on its surface, on at least an insertable part thereof, a hydrophilic surface layer providing low-friction surface character of the catheter by treatment with said wetting fluid; and a receptacle enclosing at least the insertable part of the catheter,

wherein the assembly presents a storage state in which the wetting fluid is kept separated from the hydrophilic surface layer of the catheter, and an activation state in which the wetting fluid is brought into contact with said hydrophilic surface layer before an intended use of the catheter, and

wherein the wetting fluid, in the storage state, comprises at least one dissolved osmolality-increasing compound, wherein the total concentration of the dissolved osmolality-increasing compound(s) exceeds 600 mOsm/dm^3 .

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the total concentration of the osmolality-increasing compound(s) in the wetting fluid exceeds 700 mOsm/dm^3 .

5. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the total concentration of the osmolality-increasing compound(s) in the wetting fluid is in the range of 850 to 950 mOsm/dm³.

6. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the total concentration of the osmolality-increasing compound(s) in the wetting fluid is greater than 600 mOsm/dm³ and less than 1500 mOsm/dm³.

7. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein said osmolality-increasing compound(s) is/are selected from the group consisting of urea, amino acids, mono and disaccharides, sugar alcohols, and non-toxic organic and inorganic salts or acids, polypeptides and mixtures thereof.

8. (Original) The catheter assembly as claimed in claim 7, wherein said osmolality-increasing compound(s) is/are selected from the group consisting of glucose, sorbitol, sodium chloride, sodium citrate, sodium benzoate, calcium chloride, potassium chloride, potassium iodide and potassium nitrate.

9. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the said wetting fluid further comprises a polymer.

10. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly as claimed in claim 9, wherein the polymer is a hydrophilic polymer.

11. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly as claimed in claim 9, wherein the amount of polymer in the wetting fluid is in the range 0-20% of weight.

12. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the wetting fluid is a water-based liquid.

13. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the catheter is a urinary catheter is adapted for intermittent use.

14. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein said wetting receptacle encloses the entire catheter.

15. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein said receptacle entirely encloses said wetting fluid.

16. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a separate wetting fluid container, which encloses said wetting fluid and which forms part of said catheter assembly.

17-22. (Canceled)

23. (Previously Presented) A method for producing a catheter assembly, comprising:

- providing a receptacle;
- providing a hydrophilic catheter;
- providing a wetting fluid;
- arranging at least an insertable part of the catheter in the receptacle and arranging said wetting fluid as a part of said catheter assembly;

wherein the assembly presents a storage state in which the wetting fluid is kept separated from the hydrophilic surface layer of the catheter, and an activation state in which the wetting fluid is brought into contact with said hydrophilic surface layer before an intended use of the catheter,

said wetting fluid comprising at least one dissolved osmolality-increasing compound, the total concentration of the osmolality-increasing compound(s) exceeding 600 mOsm/dm^3 .

24. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 23, wherein the total concentration of the osmolality-increasing compound(s) in the wetting fluid exceeds 700 mOsm/dm^3 .

25. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 23, wherein the total concentration of the osmolality-increasing compound(s) in the wetting fluid is in the range of 850 to 950 mOsm/dm^3 .

26. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 23, wherein the total concentration of the osmolality-increasing compound(s) in the wetting fluid is greater than 600 mOsm/dm³ and less than 1500 mOsm/dm³.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the osmolality-increasing compound is selected from the group consisting of urea, amino acids, mono and disaccharides, sugar alcohols, and non-toxic organic and inorganic salts or acids, polypeptides and mixtures thereof.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the wetting fluid is a water-based liquid.

29-35. (Canceled)

36. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly as claimed in claim 4, wherein the total concentration of the osmolality-increasing compound(s) in the wetting fluid exceeds 800 mOsm/dm³.

37. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly as claimed in claim 5, wherein the total concentration of the osmolality-increasing compound(s) in the wetting fluid is 900 mOsm/dm³.

38. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 24, wherein the total concentration of the osmolality-increasing compound(s) in the wetting fluid exceeds 800 mOsm/dm³.

39. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 25, wherein the total concentration of the osmolality-increasing compound(s) in the wetting fluid is about 900 mOsm/dm³.

40. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly as claimed in claim 10, wherein the polymer is the same type of hydrophilic polymer as in the hydrophilic surface layer of the catheter.

41. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly as claimed in claim 11, wherein the amount of polymer in the wetting fluid is in the range 5-15% by weight.

42. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly as claimed in claim 11, wherein the amount of polymer in the wetting fluid is about 10%.

43. (New) A pre-packaged intermittent use type catheter assembly, comprising:
a wetting fluid having a dissolved compound; and

a catheter having on an insertable part of its surface, a hydrophilic surface layer adapted to provide a low-friction surface characteristic when contacted by the wetting fluid; and

a receptacle enclosing at least a part of the catheter adapted to be inserted into the bladder of a user,

wherein the assembly has a container in the receptacle for storing the wetting fluid separately from the hydrophilic surface layer of the catheter, and for releasing the wetting fluid into the receptacle to contact said hydrophilic surface layer before removal of the catheter from the receptacle and insertion into the bladder of a patient,

wherein the wetting fluid dissolved compound is an osmolality-increasing compound and the total concentration of the dissolved osmolality-increasing compound in the wetting fluid that is separately stored in the container exceeds 600 mOsm/dm^3 , and

wherein when the amount of water retention in a catheter surface wetted by the wetting solution for a period of about 5 minutes and dried in ambient air for a period of about six minutes is in a range of from about 6.46 milligrams/square centimeter to about 9.68 milligrams per square centimeter.